



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

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Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources
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August 11, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Pope Furr, Architectural Historian
PDEA/HEU
NC Department of Transportation

FROM: Peter Sandbeck *for Peter Sandbeck*

SUBJECT: Improvements & upgrade to NC 107 from SR 1002 to NC 281, R-4753, Jackson County,
ER 06-1587

Thank you for your letter of July 16, 2009, transmitting the Historic Structures Survey Report for the above referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

Property #5 (*JK 555* 394) - Although Dr. Brinkley certainly had an interesting and colorful life, it appears all of his contributions to history were made prior to his 1936 ownership of the Jackson County bungalow. Because of this, the Dr. John R. Brinkley House is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion B.

However, the house appears to be a good candidate for the National Register under Criterion C. Unfortunately, there is not enough information in the report to assess the architectural integrity of the property. From the photographs provided, the house and outbuildings do appear to be intact, but to make a better eligibility assessment, we need to know of any changes made to the house since its construction in 1929 (with the exception of the already noted addition of a pool and garage). We would also like the approximate construction date, interior photographs, and more information regarding the integrity of the playhouse.

We concur that the move of the Minnie Stephens House (*JK 5A1* JK 21) and subsequent changes have diminished the integrity of the house making it ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

We also concur that Property #18 (JK 45), the Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery, do not possess the requisite significance for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to age and lack of historic significance.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Shelby Spillers, NCDOT

bc: DOT
Johnson/WO
County

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

Improvement and Upgrades to NC 107 from SR 1002 (Old Cullowhee Road) to NC 281 in
Jackson County, North Carolina

TIP No. R-4753

WBS No. 39999



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REPORT PREPARED BY SHELBY LYN SPILLERS

JULY 2009

Shelby Lynn Spillers

Principal Investigator
Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

July 14, 2009
Date

Mary Pope Furr

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Group
North Carolina Department of Transportation

July 14, 2009
Date

Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improvements and upgrades (resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation) to existing NC 107 from SR 1002 (Old Cullowee Road) to NC 281 in Jackson County. NC 107 is currently a typical mountain roadway with two 10-foot lanes and paved shoulders that vary from 0-4 feet in width. Only a couple of inches of pavement lie outside the white line on either side of the roadway. The existing roadway has a fairly steep grade as it winds up the Tuckasegee River valley. There are two very sharp, almost 90-degree turns about midway through the project area. This report represents documentation of historic properties located with the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for NC 107 TIP No. R-4753.

In response to a request for input on July 21, 2006, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC HPO) asked that an architectural historian identify and evaluate any structures over fifty years of age within the project area.

On December 10, 2008, NCDOT historians surveyed the entire APE in a vehicle and on foot. Every property in the APE greater than fifty years of age was photographed and documented. On February 3, 2009, historians submitted the survey results to NC HPO. At that meeting, NC HPO representative Renee Gledhill-Earley requested a survey report to study and evaluate two properties: the Dr. John R. Brinkley House (JK 394) and the Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery (JK 45) located along NC 107. Upon further investigation one of the outbuildings on the Dr. John R. Brinkley parcel is an indentified historic resource moved to this location by the current owner in 2002. This structure was known as the Minnie Stephens House (JK 21) and has been evaluated for National Register Eligibility as an individual historic resource and not as an outbuilding associated with the Dr. John R. Brinkley house.

This report recommends that the Dr. John R. Brinkley House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Minnie Stephens House and the Tuckasegee Baptist Church Cemetery are not recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

This project has state funding (WBS Project No.39999.1.1) and federal funding (Federal Aid No. STP-107(10)) and is classified as an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Summary of Findings

The December 2008 field survey identified seventeen properties within the APE that appeared to be at least fifty years old. Of the seventeen identified properties, fifteen were determined not eligible for listing in the National Register and not worthy of further evaluation in a consultation meeting between NC HPO and the NCDOT held on February 3, 2009 (see concurrence form in Appendix I). Photographs of these fifteen properties are included as Appendix II. At the consultation meeting NC HPO requested further information on two properties, Property No. 5: the Dr. John R. Brinkley House (JK 394); and Property No. 18: Tuckasegee Baptist and Cemetery (JK 45). During the investigation of the Dr. John R. Brinkley House, it was discovered that the Minnie Stevens House (JK 21) had been moved from its original location on Caney Fork Road to the property of the Dr. John R. Brinkley House. The Minnie Stephens House does not have a separate NCDOT survey number as it located on the same parcel as Property No. 5: the Dr. John R. Brinkley House.

PROPERTIES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP)

None

PROPERTIES PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE NRHP

None

PROPERTIES EVALUATED BY NCDOT & RECOMMENDED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NRHP

Property No. 5 -- Dr. John R. Brinkley House (JK 394)

PROPERTIES EVALUATED BY NCDOT & RECOMMENDED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NRHP

Minnie Stephens House (JK 21)
Property No. 18 -- Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery (JK 45)

PROPERTIES ELIGIBLE UNDER CRITERION G

None

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Project Description

NCDOT proposes improvements and upgrades (resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation) to existing NC 107 from SR 1002 (Old Cullowee Road) to NC 281 in Jackson County. This project has state funding (WBS Project No.39999.1.1) and federal funding (Federal Aid No. STP-107(10)). NC 107 is currently a typical mountain roadway with two 10-foot lanes and paved shoulders that vary from 0-4 feet in width. Only a couple of inches of pavement lie outside the white line on either side of the roadway. The existing roadway has a fairly steep grade as it winds up the Tuckasegee River valley. There are two very sharp, almost 90-degree turns about midway through the project area.

Purpose of Survey and Report

The purpose of the project is to increase traffic capacity and safety along NC 107, a two-lane shoulder facility, by improving lane and shoulder widths, intersections, and alignments of specific sections where possible.

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the project's APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by an Environmental Assessment (EA). This report is prepared as a technical appendix to the EA and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment. This report is on file at NCDOT and is available for review by the public.

Methodology

NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 CFR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet NCDOT and the National Park Service guidelines.

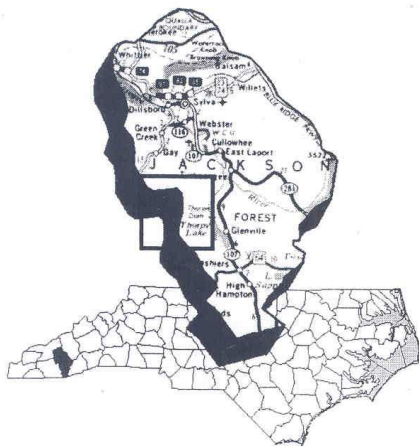
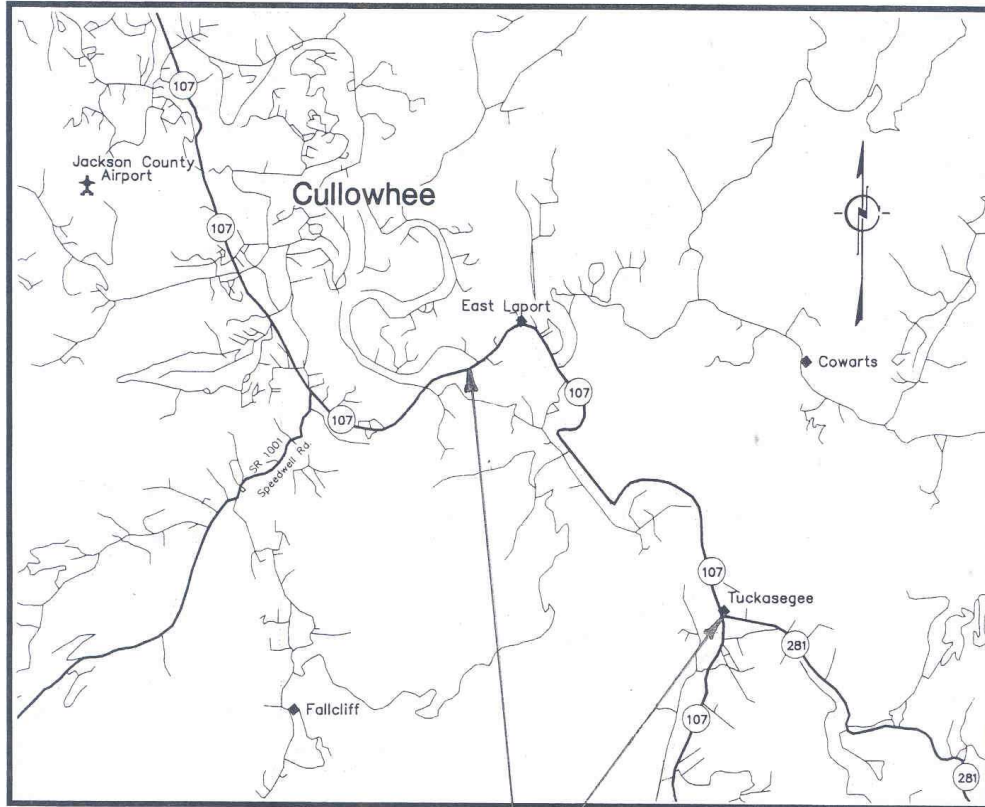
NCDOT conducted a Final Identification and Evaluation survey with the following goals: 1) to determine the APE, defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; 2) to identify all significant resources within the APE; and 3) to evaluate these

resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria. The APE boundary is shown in Figure 2.

On December 10, 2008, NCDOT historians surveyed the entire APE in a vehicle and on foot. Every property in the APE greater than fifty years of age was photographed and documented. On February 3, 2009, historians submitted the survey results to NC HPO. At that meeting, NC HPO representative Renee Gledhill-Earley requested a survey report to study and evaluate two properties: the Dr. John R. Brinkley House (JK 394) and the Tuckasegee Baptist Church Cemetery (JK 45) located along NC 107. Upon further investigation one of the outbuildings on the Dr. John R. Brinkley parcel is an unidentified historic resource moved to this location by the current owner in 2002. This structure was known as the Minnie Stephens House (JK 21) and has been evaluated for National Register Eligibility as an individual historic resource and not as an outbuilding associated with the Dr. John R. Brinkley house.

Background research was conducted at the following archival repositories: the State Library of North Carolina and the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina; the Jackson County Register of Deeds, Sylva, North Carolina; the Western Office of Archives and History, Asheville, North Carolina and the North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Individuals who contributed guidance and helpful information include the current owners of the Dr. John R. Brinkley House and the Minnie Stevens House, Tommy and Joan Buetell, Mary Jo Cobb and Irene Hooper of the Jackson Country Historical Society, and Michael Hill of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History.

Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map




	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH
	JACKSON COUNTY NC 107 FROM SR 1002 TO NC 281 R-4753
VICINITY MAP	

Figure 2: APE

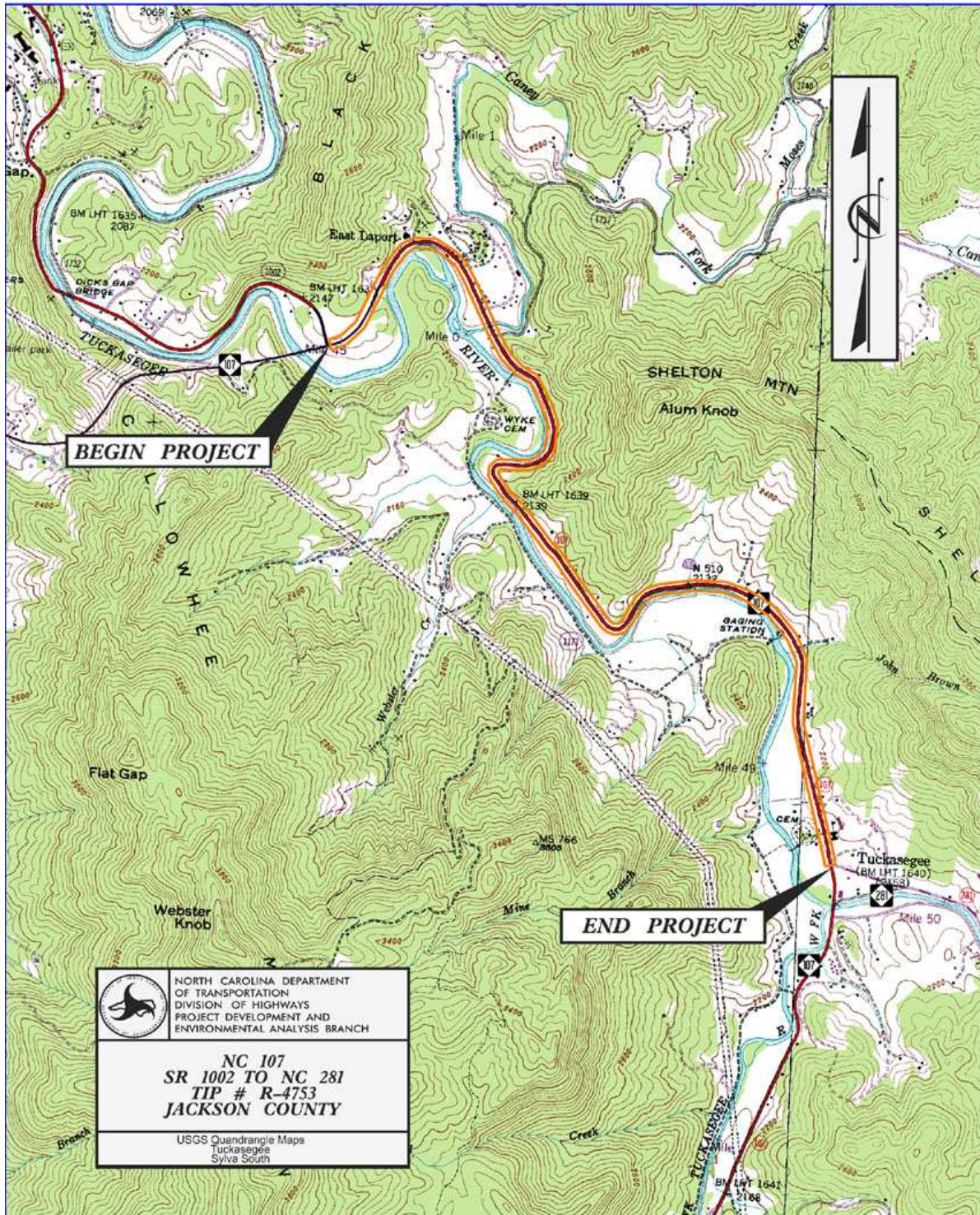
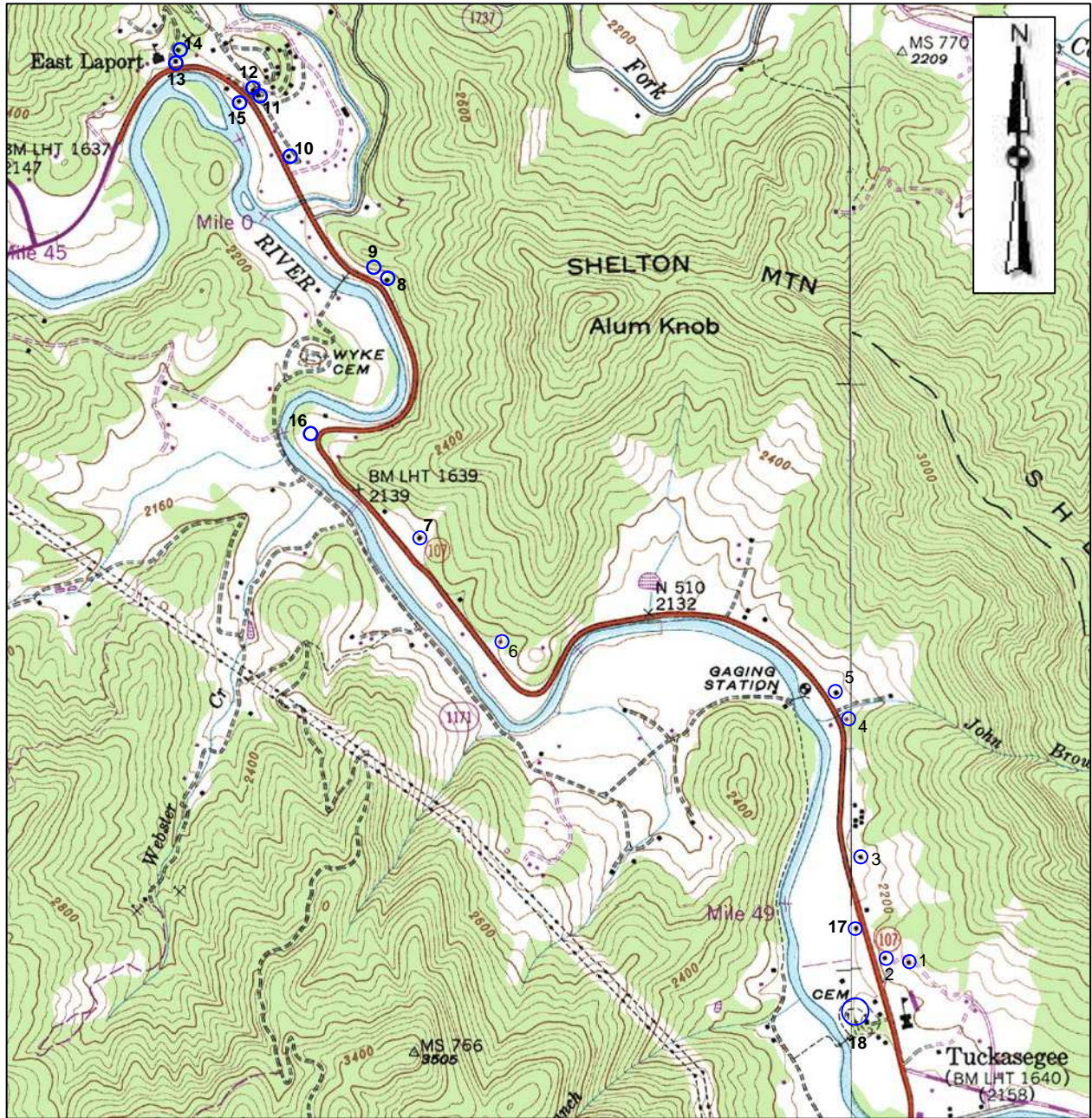


Figure 3: Historic Resources Map



Location and Description

The project area, located in central Jackson County, stretches 4.1 miles along NC 107. The rural, mountainous area follows the Tuckasegee River from just west of East Laport to the town of Tuckasegee. Although the area has seen some development, it remains largely rural, populated by residential and commercial buildings, churches, cross-road stores and small agricultural operations.

History Context: Jackson County

Quoted from B-4160 Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report Replace Bridge No. 82 Over the Tuckasegee River on SR 1002, Jackson County by Courtney Foley, NCDOT.

White settlement of the mountainous terrain in what is now Jackson County began in the late eighteenth century, part of the general expansion westward after the American Revolution. Natural topography strongly influenced early settlement patterns. Jackson County lacked any semblance of town life until the 1850s despite being populated several decades earlier.

Although not open legally to white settlement until 1820, several families settled land in the Tuckasegee Valley during the first two decades of the nineteenth century. River valleys and Cherokee trails dictated early settlement patterns and community formation. The most important of the existing local paths, called the War Road, passed from Haywood County, to the northeast, through Balsam Gap, where it followed Scotts Creek down the valley to the Tuckasegee River, roughly the alignment of US 23/74 today.

By the 1830s, settlers had cut a network of crude roads throughout the county that better connected the area to the outside world. A weekly stagecoach route came from Asheville, and in 1837 the state legislature authorized the Scotts Creek Turnpike between Waynesville and Franklin. Up until this time, the lack of transportation routes and rugged terrain limited most farmers to subsistence farming. With the opening of the Scotts Creek Turnpike and improvement of other overland routes out of the county, farmers began to raise crops and livestock in larger quantities selling surplus at markets outside of the region.

The official creation of Jackson County in 1851 necessitated a county seat. The original location of Webster consisted of an eighteen-acre tract of land centrally located in the middle of the county. Incorporated in 1859, Webster remained the only incorporated town in the county for three decades. Sylva incorporated in 1889. However, the long-awaited arrival of the railroad in the 1880s turned out to be the undoing of this once-thriving town. Extending a rail line to Dillsboro via Webster required several more miles of track than if the railroad took a more direct route through Sylva. This lack of railroad connection caused Webster to languish, and in 1913 the county seat relocated to Sylva.

Sylva blossomed with the arrival of the railroad. A year after becoming the county seat, the town constructed a courthouse sited impressively on top of a hill overlooking the bustling commercial district. Rail transport also increased commercial mining and logging operations throughout the county. The production of the most profitable mineral, kaolin, began in 1888, peaked in 1902, and ceased in 1926. Mining for mica, iron, gold, copper, and corundum met with mixed success. Large-scale logging of virgin timber also became financially viable.

Commercial farming ventures, more practical with the introduction of the railroad, encouraged the growth of rural communities scattered throughout the county. Community indicators such as churches, stores, and schools developed in the valleys along the Tuckasegee and other streams and creeks that snake through the numerous valleys. By 1896 thirty-four community post offices existed in Jackson County.

Progress in the county continued steadily throughout the twentieth century. Intense commercial logging left numerous mountainsides deforested. The US Forest Service reclaimed these lands as part of the Nantahala National Forest. Improvement to the existing network of county roads and bridges in conjunction with forest conservation efforts allowed the tourism industry to blossom. Despite sustained progress, mountainous terrain causes large portions of the county to remain rural and sparsely settled today. Tuckasegee and East Laport remain unincorporated, however both have maintained Post Offices since 1882 and 1840 respectively.

PROPERTIES EVALUATED BY NCDOT AND RECOMMENDED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Identification

Dr. John R. Brinkley House
Property No. 5 JK 394
PIN 7568-85-1682

Location and Setting

The Dr. John R. Brinkley House is located on the northwest side of NC 107, approximately one mile from the junction of NC 107 and NC 281 in the Tuckasegee area of Jackson County. The house sits within a sloped clearing of 255 acres of farmland between Shelton Mountain and the Tuckasegee River. A well-tended garden surrounds the main house, and several outbuildings associated with the house and farm dot the hillside. A low rock retaining wall hugs the shoulder of NC 107, and two curving rock walls flank the driveway, announcing in bold white quartz lettering "Dr John R Brinkley."

Property Description

The one-and-a-half-story Rustic Revival bungalow was constructed of coursed round river rock in 1929. Local river rock from the Tuckasegee laid with a decorative beaded joint between the rocks gives the Brinkley House a distinctive appearance. Standing-seam metal covers the cross-gable roof, and the deep eaves feature chestnut-bark shingles and decorative brackets. A screened porch extends along the south-facing façade and the west elevation and is supported by river-rock columns topped by rectangular cement caps. Four-over-one, double-hung sash windows pierce the façade, the west elevation, and the gables. Two interior chimneys pierce the new standing-seam-metal roof, each with a metal chimney cap and each made with round river rock consistent with the rest of the house.

Directly behind the house is a two-story, gable-front maids' quarters with a root cellar. The building is set into the hillside, which partially buries the first story. The round-river rock construction forms the root cellar while a board-and-batten exterior distinguishes the upper story. The first story features four-over-one windows while the second story has one-over-one double-hung sash windows.

On the hillside above the house is a structure known as Little Johnny's Playhouse. This one-story, side-gable house sits on a round river-rock foundation. The exterior walls are sheathed with board-and-batten. A fireplace with an exterior river-rock chimney serves the heating needs of the small house. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. Impressive stone stairs lead from the back entrance of the main house, past the root cellar/servants'

quarters, and up to Little Johnny's Playhouse. A wooden deck with a handicap-access ramp has been recently added.

A secondary residence was added to the property in the 1960s. This one-story, front-gable house rests on a continuous wall foundation. A brick chimney pierces the roof which is covered with asphalt shingles. Board-and-batten covers the exterior walls. A screened shed-roofed porch obscures the view to the front entrance. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash and one-by-one sliding glass.

The farm utility structures on the property include: two massive terra cotta tile silos; a transverse barn; a gambrel-roofed bank barn; and a metal utility shed. A two-story log house is also located on the property. However, it was moved to its current location from another part of the county in 2003, and it will be evaluated on page 36 of this report.

Historical Background

Claude Wike built the house that stands today. Inscribed on the concrete sill of the porch is the finish date: September 14, 1929. Wike built the substantial stone house to replace an earlier two-story frame house which burned to the ground.¹ John (Jack) Wike, Claude's father, purchased the land in 1892 from D. D. Davis. Davis had come to Jackson County in the 1850s and purchased several thousand acres for the mineral rights.²

When the Wike family fell on hard times during the depression, Laura Wike contacted her former son-in-law, Dr. John R. Brinkley, hoping he would be interested in buying their land. Brinkley had been married to Sally Wike but left the mountains and subsequently became one of Jackson County's most notorious natives.

Dr. John R. Brinkley was born in Beta, Jackson County, NC, on July 8, 1885, the illegitimate son of a mountain doctor, also named John R. Brinkley. The younger Brinkley's mother was Sarah Candace Burnett, the niece of Sarah Mingus, the elder John Brinkley's wife. Sarah Mingus Brinkley, was called Aunt Sally to avoid confusion about the two Sarahs in the household. Brinkley's biological mother died of tuberculosis in 1891, at which point Aunt Sally assumed care-taking responsibilities of the then five-year-old boy. The family moved from Beta to East Laport, where the elder John Brinkley added Methodist minister to his professional duties. When Little Johnnie was ten years old, his father went over the mountain to make a house call. After tending to the ailing

¹ Beutell, Thomas. Personal interview.

² Williams, Max R., ed. *The History of Jackson County*. p. 94.

neighbor, he sat down in a chair by the fire and died.³ Aunt Sally devoted herself to Little Johnnie and raised him alone as if he were her own son.

Like most mountain families, they raised most of their own food. Little Johnnie hunted for rabbits and opossums, and Aunt Sally earned a little money serving as the community midwife. Most accounts of Brinkley's life (particularly the authorized biography written by Clement Wood) depict his younger years in extreme poverty. There is little doubt that his modest upbringing together with the deaths of both of his parents had a profound influence on Brinkley, both on his desire to leave the mountains to search for his wealth and on the means by which he earned that wealth.



At sixteen Brinkley completed his public education and took a job as the mail carrier on the Tuckasegee to Sylva route. He learned to use the telegraph and obtained a job with Southern Railroad in Sylva. Eventually his telegraphy career would take him from his mountain home to other rail stations in New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Brinkley never forgot his early desire to become a doctor. While earning a respectable living with the railroad, he studied on his own in hopes of gaining entrance to John Hopkins University, the most prestigious medical school of that time. However in the fall of 1906, Aunt Sally became gravely ill, and Brinkley returned to the mountains to be near her. He worked at the station in Bryson City until Aunt Sally's death in December.⁴

At the funeral for Aunt Sally, Brinkley reunited with his former schoolmate Sally Wike, and the two were married within a month. Brinkley's new wife supported his medical aspirations and agreed to move to Chicago. Brinkley worked the nightshift at Western Union while he attended Bennett Eclectic Medical School during the day. The years in Chicago were difficult on the marriage. Brinkley barely earned enough money to support his wife and daughter. They further suffered when their three-day-old son, John Alton, died. At the end of Brinkley's second year in medical school, Sally left him, beginning a cycle of break-ups and reconciliations that would last into the next decade. At one point while Sally lived in Tuckasegee, Brinkley received news that she had given birth to his second daughter. After his third year of medical school, Brinkley returned to the mountains to reunite with Sally and his two daughters. He received permission

³ Lee, R. Alton. *The Bizarre Careers of Dr. John R. Brinkley*. p. 6.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 11.

from the North Carolina State Board of Medical Examiners to work as an “undergraduate physician”.⁵

Brinkley was unable to return to Chicago to complete his medical training. Instead, he moved his family from Florida to New York City, out to Tennessee and back to Chicago while chasing his dream of establishing a medical practice. Sally finally left him for good in 1913, the same year Brinkley received a diploma from the National University of Arts and Sciences in St. Louis. A 1923 investigation into Brinkley’s medical credentials revealed that this diploma was likely obtained fraudulently.⁶

In August of 1913, Brinkley was in Memphis and met Minnie Jones, the daughter of a prominent physician. The two were married a few days later, but it wasn’t until the honeymoon that Brinkley told Minnie he had not yet divorced Sally. Brinkley and his new wife moved to Arkansas briefly then to Kansas City where he finally finished his medical degree. In 1915 Brinkley graduated from the Eclectic Medical University of Kansas City, specializing in “the irritations and enlargements of the prostate in elderly men.”⁷

The origin of the “Brinkley Operation” is debatable. According to Brinkley’s authorized biography, the idea for the operation was conceived by its first recipient, while Brinkley, citing moral and ethical objections, had to be convinced to perform the procedure. Other accounts claim that Brinkley paid the patient to participate in the experiment. Certainly Brinkley’s stint as the company doctor for Swift (the meat-packing company) in Kansas City provided him with plenty of time to observe the behavioral and physical characteristics of goats. However it came to happen, just two weeks after he opened his practice in Milford, Kansas, Brinkley performed his first goat gland transplantation on a farmer who complained of having a “flat tire.”⁸

Word spread around Milford of the great rejuvenation that Brinkley could provide. Another farmer, William Stittsworth, submitted to the operation. He felt so reinvigorated that he brought in his wife. Dr. Brinkley transplanted the ovaries of a goat into the woman. A year later the couple had a baby boy whom they named Billy.⁹

Brinkley advertised his operation widely, claiming that the surgery would cure ailments including, but certainly not limited to, impotence, diabetes, nephritis, dementia, high blood pressure, arteriosclerosis, epilepsy, and sterility.¹⁰ Advertising by doctors was against the rules of the American Medical Association (AMA), therefore his membership

⁵ Ibid. p. 18.

⁶ Ibid. p. 50.

⁷ Ibid. p. 22

⁸ Ibid. p. 30.

⁹ Ibid. p. 32.

¹⁰ Brinkley, John R. The Brinkley Operation.

in the organization was cancelled. No matter, by September 1918, Brinkley had opened the first Brinkley-Jones Hospital.¹¹

Newspaper headlines across the nation proclaimed the success of the Brinkley Operation. They called him The Goat Gonad King and the Kansas Ponce de Leon. The doctor traveled to New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and all the way to China to perform his much-demanded surgery. Charging \$750 for the procedure, he returned from his travels a very wealthy man. Brinkley was able to expand the hospital to accommodate even more patients who arrived by train from all over the country.



Dr. Brinkley assisted by his wife Minnie, performing the Brinkley Operation.

While in Los Angeles, *Times* owner Harry Chandler gave Brinkley a tour of the new radio station he was building. Impressed by the technology, Brinkley built his own radio tower in Milford in 1923. Station KFKB offered music, church services, Masonic lessons, and college courses from Kansas State's College of the Air. "The Medical Question Box," a show hosted by Brinkley himself, would become part of his downfall:

During the show, he read letters from listeners and prescribed medicine for their ailments, medicine that they could get from one of more than 1,500 pharmacists that belonged to the Brinkley Pharmaceutical Association. . . . [Brinkley] charged \$2 per inquiry to handle stenographic costs and received \$1 for each bottle of medicine sold.¹²

¹¹ Lee. p. 37.

¹² Fowler, Gene and Bill Crawford. *Border Radio*. p. 25-26.

By 1929 KFKB had been voted America's most popular radio station, however Brinkley was under investigation by the AMA and the Federal Radio Commission (FRC). Dr. Morris Fishbein headed the AMA's efforts to revoke Brinkley's license to practice medicine. The FRC claimed that Brinkley engaged in point-to-point communication for commercial gain and that his show was contrary to the public interest, both of which were prohibited by international treaty. The AMA considered Brinkley particularly threatening because "no other quack owns a radio station."¹³

The Kansas Medical Board issued complaints about Brinkley including misrepresenting his education to get his medical license, diagnosing and prescribing over the radio, and advertising the Brinkley Compound Operation over the radio. While Brinkley made appeals to the higher courts to overturn the board's decision to revoke his license, the FRC held a hearing in Washington, D.C., not to renew KFKB's license to broadcast. While the FRC had several complaints against Brinkley, the focus of the hearing was on "The Medical Question Box." On June 13, 1930, the FRC voted not to renew the station's license.¹⁴

After the FRC refused to renew the radio license, a former Brinkley patient sued the doctor for pain, suffering, and physical impairment. Hailed as one of Kansas's most notorious court cases of the day, spectators overflowed the courthouse and stood on the streets. Medical professionals testified that the Brinkley Operation was useless because the blood vessels and nerve connections Brinkley claimed to make were medically impossible. Brinkley countered by presenting more than 45 satisfied customers to testify before the court. (He had more but the judge made him stop.) The judge, however, admitted 500 written affidavits into the official court record. Finally Brinkley himself took the stand and challenged the medical board to come to his hospital and witness the operation. They accepted. A committee of 12 doctors travelled to Milford and witnessed two operations. Upon their return to Topeka the committee directed the Attorney General to immediately revoke Brinkley's medical license.¹⁵

After the circus of the trial and the revocation of his medical license, Brinkley planned his next great scheme. He decided to run for governor of Kansas. If elected he would have the power to appoint the State Medical Board, thus ensuring the reinstatement of his medical license. KFKB was still in operation while his radio license case was being appealed, so he was able to use the radio station to promote his campaign. Brinkley appealed to farmers, laborers, and the poor with his message of deregulation, improved social services, and anti-corporate farming. His popularity soared as he flew to campaign rallies across the state in his private plane. Two weeks prior to the election the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that as a write-in candidate his name would have to be recorded by the voter exactly as it appeared when he filed the papers for his candidacy:

¹³ Lee. p. 92.

¹⁴ Ibid. p. 101.

¹⁵ Ibid. p. 111-13.

J. R. Brinkley. Doc, Dr. Brinkley, John Brinkley, and the like would not be counted. This ruling proved fatal for his election day hopes. Brinkley lost by a narrow margin but succeeded in getting many voters to the polls who normally stayed home. He tried for the governor's mansion twice more in 1932 and 1934.

Brinkley failed to get the broadcasting license renewed for KFKB. During his final broadcast from the station on February 2, 1931, Brinkley informed his audience that they would soon be able to tune into his broadcasts again because he was building a new, powerful radio tower just across the U.S.-Mexico border. In fact Brinkley built one of the most powerful radio transmission towers in the world; broadcasting at 500,000 watts, XERA could be heard from every state in the U.S. and several other countries.¹⁶

Border blasting is the practice of building a radio tower in one country while broadcasting via telephone line to the tower from another country. This practice is now illegal due to the passage of the Brinkley Act of 1941. Before he was shut down, Brinkley operated three border blasting radio stations: XERA, XEAW, and XEPN. There was hardly a household in North America that didn't hear Brinkley's radio shows. U.S. radio stations, limited to 25,000 watts at the time, were often overpowered by Brinkley's transmissions. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), formerly the FRC, worked with their international counterparts to bring down the border blasters.¹⁷

Brinkley operated XERA at great expense from Milford, Kansas so that he could oversee of the daily operation of his hospital. The Brinkley Compound Operation continued its popularity even after Brinkley has lost his medical license in Kansas. Brinkley hired licensed doctors to perform the surgery under his supervision. Brinkley did, however, retain the right to practice medicine in Texas. So in 1933 he relocated his radio station, his hospital, and more than thirty employees and their families to Del Rio, Texas. Once he'd left Milford for good, Brinkley had all of the buildings he owned in the town razed.¹⁸

The Brinkleys enjoyed a gala reception from the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, whose members felt the radio station and the hospital would reinvigorate the dying border town like nothing else could during the Depression. Brinkley extolled the virtues of his new home over the airwaves of "The Sunshine Station between the Nations." He encouraged his patients to view the trip to Del Rio not as a hospital stay but as a vacation "where summer comes to spend winter."¹⁹

Patients streamed into the tiny town. He located his hospital on one floor of the Roswell Hotel. His patients would spend a week at the hotel when they came for the operation. Many brought their families with them, creating a booming tourism industry in both Del

¹⁶ Ibid. p. 162.

¹⁷ Ibid. p. 178.

¹⁸ Ibid. p. 168.

¹⁹ Ibid. p. 167.

Rio and across the border in Villa Acuna. Brinkley's business alleviated the economic woes of these communities during the Depression.²⁰ At one point Brinkley paid out a \$20,000 monthly payroll.

Brinkley radio broadcasts also continued to be very successful. Though he no longer produced the "Medical Question Box," he gave two shows nightly, and on Sundays he waxed philosophical about wide-ranging topics from highway safety to the Mormons. (Later he collected these "sermons" in a book called *Roads Courageous*.) At the end of each show, he asked listeners to write to him and Minnie and Little Johnny, and he promised a personal response to each letter. With his reply he would include Dr. Brinkley's Doctor Book, a self-published booklet that described common ailments and the cures he could offer at the Brinkley Hospital in Del Rio.

In addition to Brinkley's personal addresses, XERA helped to launch the careers of many early country stars, including the Carter Family, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, the Pickard Family, and many more. Del Rio was known as the Hillbilly Hollywood. Brinkley was credited with laying the foundation for the popular country music explosion of the 1940s and '50s.²¹ XERA was not only the venue for major stars of popular country music of the day, it also had a major influence on the next generation of stars including Johnny Cash, Chet Atkins, and Waylon Jennings since the radio station could be heard throughout the nation.

By 1933 the doctor moved away from goat gonad transplantation to a new technique he called Steinach No. 2, modeled after a technique preformed by Eugen Steinach in Vienna in the 1920s. Essentially a partial vasectomy, Brinkley claimed the operation would reduce an enlarged prostate, lower blood pressure, cure infections, increase sexual vigor, and relieve depression. Additionally Brinkley opened a clinic in San Juan, Texas which specialized in problems of the colon.

The doctor who claimed to have walked barefoot out of the mountains of North Carolina amassed an enormous fortune from his multitude of ventures. Between 1933 and 1938, his hospital operations alone earned more than twelve million dollars. Together with income from his radio stations and other investments, the Brinkleys could afford an extravagant lifestyle. They lived in an eighteen-room mansion just outside the Del Rio city limits. Brinkley owned a fleet of twelve Cadillacs, three yachts, and an airplane. The family escaped the brutal summer heat of Del Rio each year with trips throughout North America and Europe.²²

Generous with his resources, Brinkley's philanthropy is as renowned as his controversial medical practices. During the holidays he and Minnie often gave turkeys to their

²⁰ Ibid. p. 184.

²¹ Brock, Pope. Charlatan. p. 177.

²² Lee. p. 192.

neighbors in Milford and Del Rio. Brinkley established the first ambulance system in Kansas. In Del Rio he bought an iron lung for the treatment of Del Rio children who were stricken with polio. He kept a charge account open at Del Rio's department store for the use of any child that needed school clothes or winter coats. He made improvements to the infrastructure of both Milford and Del Rio with public works such as sewer systems, water works, and in the case of Milford, a power plant.

In 1936 Laura Wike, the widow of Sally Wike's father Jack, contacted Dr. Brinkley to see if he would be interested in purchasing the Wike family farm in Tuckasegee. At first the doctor bristled at the idea, having so many bitter memories of his former in-laws, but quickly Brinkley had a change of heart. Brinkley had regretted not buying his Aunt Sally's home, his boyhood home, before it fell to ruins. Deciding that he wanted to be involved in his homeland once more, he purchased the Wike farm and eventually 7000 acres in the North Carolina mountains. Brinkley hired Will Smith, a former schoolmate from the area, to act as foreman for his land. Brinkley shipped in long-horn steer from Texas, planned to harvest the timber, and eventually mine for mineral deposits on the land. The Brinkley family returned to the mountains every summer. Brinkley is remembered fondly as a Jackson County native son who offered much needed employment to many in the area.²³

²³ Hotaling, Lynn. *The Sylva Herald and Ruralite* p. 4A.

In 1937 Brinkley erected a monument (Property No. 16 on Historic Resource Map, page 5 of this report) on the shoulder of a winding curve along NC 107 near his boyhood home. Dedicated to his Aunt Sally, it reads:

THE BOYHOOD HOME
OF
DR. JOHN R. BRINKLEY
AND HIS
AUNT SALLY
HER GRAVE IS ON THE HILL-
TOP ACROSS THE RIVER. SHE IS
REMEMBERED AND LOVED
FOR HER MINISTRATIONS
TO THE SICK OF THIS COMMUNITY.
THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN 1937
IN LOVING MEMORY
BY
HER "LITTLE BOY JOHNNIE"
SHE WAS THE ONLY MOTHER I EVER
KNEW.
J. R. BRINKLEY M.D.



Brinkley fortunes met with a swift decline after a final showdown with a lifelong nemesis, Dr. Morris Fishbein of the AMA. Fishbein had tried to expose Brinkley as a charlatan since his 1928 AMA-published essay about Brinkley's goat gland operation. Ten years later Fishbein published another exposé in *Hygeia*, the AMA's mass-market publication. The two-part series titled "Modern Medical Charlatans" accused Brinkley of being a "blatant quack" without any "real medical education, with licenses purchased and secured through manipulations of political appointees."²⁴ And that was just for starters. A furious Brinkley sued Fishbein for libel.

Brinkley lost the case which started an avalanche of malpractice suits against him, unwanted attention from the Internal Revenue Service, and charges of mail fraud. In an effort to hide his assets, Brinkley transferred the land in North Carolina to his son, Little Johnny, but it was a losing battle. In 1941 Brinkley declared bankruptcy. That same year he suffered a massive heart attack and the loss of his leg due to a blood clot. He continued to fight his myriad of court cases from his sick bed. On May 26, 1942, Brinkley suffered a fatal heart attack at a hospital in San Antonio, Texas. He is buried in his wife's family plot in Memphis. His headstone reads "Daddy—John R. Brinkley M.D., 1885-1942. Respectability at last."

²⁴ Brock. p. 224.

John R. Brinkley III (Little Johnny Boy) kept the farm in Jackson County until 1949. The land changed hands several times until 1973, when the current owners purchased the property. Thomas and Joan Beutell live in the house that Claude Wike built. Their son and his family live in Little Johnny's Playhouse. The Beutells own and operate Wolf Creek Farm and Nursery, a Christmas tree farm, out of a log house relocated to the property for that purpose. The log house, known as the Minnie Stephens House (JK 21), was moved to the property from its original location in 2002. Since the Minnie Stephens House has an identified site file at the Western Office of History and Archives, it is evaluated separately.



Dr. John R. Brinkley's grave site
Memphis, TN



NC Highway Marker Honors Brinkley
NC 107 Jackson County

National Register Criteria Assessment

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Dr. John R. Brinkley House is recommended **eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places. The house retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, location, workmanship, feeling, setting, and association.

The Dr. John R. Brinkley House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*²⁵ The property is not associated with any event or pattern of history that would raise the significance to the level necessary to make it eligible for National Register listing. The Dr. John R. Brinkley House is not recommended eligible under Criterion A.

The Dr. John R. Brinkley House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.*²⁶ In 1994 a North Carolina Historical Marker was erected next to the Aunt Sally Monument along NC 107 not far from the Dr. John R. Brinkley House. It read: "JOHN R. BRINKLEY 1885-1942 Medical maverick, radio and advertising pioneer, candidate for governor of Kansas. Boyhood home stood across the river." The marker signifies Dr. Brinkley's importance on a national scale.

Brinkley gained international fame for his popular goat gland operation which he claimed would treat a multitude of ailments not the least of which was male impotence. Brinkley built the first radio station in Kansas and pioneered the use of radio as an advertising and marketing medium. Over the airwaves of KFKB he promoted the curative properties of his goat gland operation. Soon he was among the richest and most famous doctors in America. However not all the attention he enjoyed was positive. The American Medical Association, led by Dr. Morris Fishbein, focused on Brinkley in

²⁵ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin* 15. (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), p. 12.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

their efforts to end the practices of doctors they felt were medical frauds. The AMA teamed up with the Federal Radio Commission to end Brinkley's presence on the airwaves. He was charged with advertising medical procedures over the air, giving medical advice and prescriptions to his listeners without ever having seen them as patients, and using his communications for profit, which was contrary to the public good. Brinkley lost his Kansas medical license, and the FRC refused to renew his radio station license.

Not one to be defeated, Brinkley ran for Governor of Kansas three times thinking that as Governor he would have the authority to appoint the Kansas State Medical Board and thus regain his medical credentials in the state. To foil the FRC Brinkley became one of the first Border Blasters. He moved his radio transmitter across the Texas-Mexico border and erected the world's largest and most powerful radio towers. At 500,000 watts, Brinkley could be heard around the world on XERA. Brinkley's radio stations offered audiences a wide variety of entertainment including the music of his native North Carolina mountains. Brinkley helped to popularize American country music and aided the careers of legends such as the Carter Family and Roy Rogers.

The doctor returned to his mountain home in 1936 when he purchased his first wife's family farm, both as an investment and a summer retreat for his family. Brinkley was well regarded in Jackson County for the economic benefit he brought to the community during the hard years of the depression. Brinkley razed any building that was once associated with his life in Milford, Kansas. The Brinkley Mansion in Del Rio, Texas is designated as a Texan Historical Landmark but it is not listed in the National Register. His childhood home, where he lived with Aunt Sally has been demolished. The Dr. John R. Brinkley house is the only structures associated with his life extant in North Carolina. The residents of Jackson County readily identify the property with Brinkley and recognize his importance in the nation's history. The Dr. John R. Brinkley house is recommended eligible for National Register listing under Criterion B.

The Dr. John R. Brinkley House is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*²⁷ Under Criterion C, the Dr. John R. Brinkley house stands as a rare example of a one-and-a-half-story Rustic Revival in this part of Jackson County. With its fine stonework, details like the raised mortar pointing and unaltered floor plan, the house retains a high degree of architectural integrity, as do the full complement of outbuildings which are architecturally compatible with the house itself: the root cellar

²⁷ Ibid., p. 17.

and the playhouse built for Dr. Brinkley son. The Dr. John R. Brinkley house is recommended eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C.

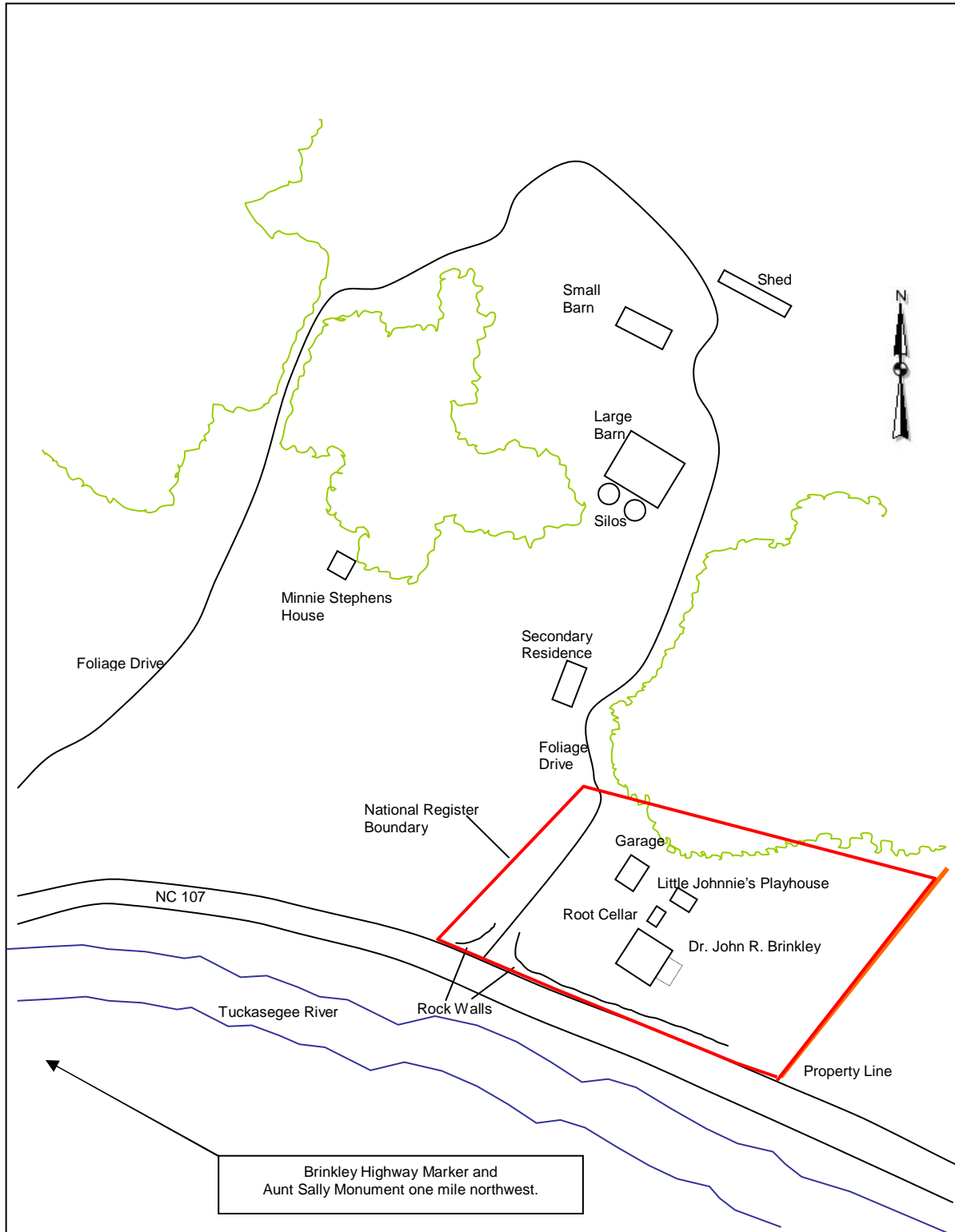
The Dr. John R. Brinkley House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*²⁸ The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. The Dr. John R. Brinkley House is not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

²⁸ Ibid., p. 21.

National Register Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the Dr. John R. Brinkley house has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties. The boundary begins approximately 12 feet west of Foliage Drive along the existing Right of Way (ROW) of NC 107 to the property line bounding the east side of the parcel then running 250 feet north east to the tree line then the north boundary line stretches approximately 300 feet to meet the west boundary across Foliage Drive. The boundary is drawn so as to include the house, the root cellar/maid's quarters, Little Johnnie's Playhouse, the rock wall along NC 107, the highly decorated rock walls that flank Foliage Drive and are inscribed with the name Dr John R. Brinkley in quartz, as well as the landscape elements that constitute the historic setting of the Brinkley property. The boundary contains just a portion of the 300-acre parcel that directly relates to the Dr. John R. Brinkley House and its immediate surrounding. The boundary excludes the remaining acreage and the modern outbuildings, structures that do not date to the years that Dr. Brinkley owned the land and structures that were moved to the property. The boundary contains 2.2 acres of the parcel boundary is identified as Jackson County Parcel ID # 7568-85-1682.

National Register Boundary





Rock Wall Entry to the Dr. John R. Brinkley House



Dr. John R. Brinkley House south facing façade



Three-quarter view of south and east elevations



View of west elevation (with current owner Tommy Buetell and his dog)



View of north (rear) elevation



View of swimming pool added in the early 1980s



Root cellar and maids quarters



Stone stairs leading to Little Johnnie's Playhouse



View of Little Johnnie's Playhouse



Garage



View of landscaping on east side of house



View of front yard and NC 107



View of screened porch



Construction date inscribed on the lintel



View of living room



View of dining room from living room



Central stairway



Name plate in retaining rock wall along NC 107



Landscape elements including rustic river rock raised garden beds



View of Foliage Road looking north



Three quarter view of secondary residence looking north west



View of large barn and silos looking north west



View of shed looking north



View of small barn looking north west

PROPERTIES EVALUATED BY NCDOT AND RECOMMENDED NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Identification

Minnie Stephens House
JK 21
PIN 7568-85-1682

Location

The house sits on a cleared knoll that rises to the north of the Tuckasegee River and NC 107. The house is surrounded by a spilt-rail fence with decorative plantings and rock paths. Moved to the Dr. John R. Brinkley property in 2002 by the current owner, the house was originally located off of Caney Fork Road approximately six miles from its current location.

Property Description

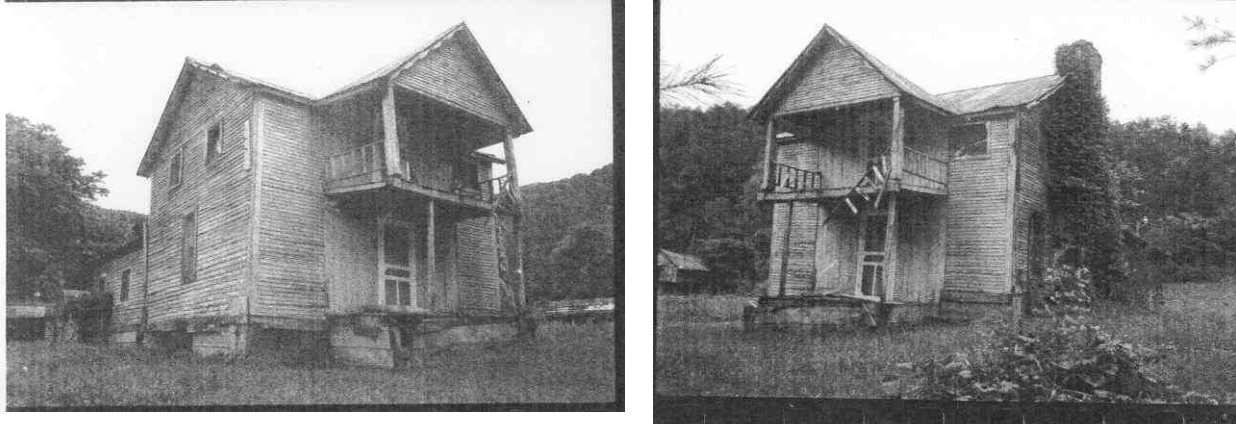
The two-story, one-room log house rests on a continuous dry-stack stone foundation. The square-hewn logs are held together with half-dovetail notching. Standing-seam metal covers the side-gable roof and chestnut bark shingles decorate the gable ends. The original windows have been replaced with nine-over-nine double-hung wooden sash on the first story and two-over-two openings in the gable end on the second level. A dry-stack double-shoulder rock chimney stands on the exterior east elevation. A shed-roofed porch shelters the front entrance. A rear shed addition provides a new bathroom for the house.

Historical Background

Thomas Beutell, current owner of this house, moved the structure to this location in 2002. He uses the building as an office for his Christmas tree farm, Wolf Creek Farm and Nursery. The house was formerly located on Caney Fork Road approximately one mile east of SR 1740. According to the identified sites map of the area at the Western office of HPO, this building was identified in a 1978 county survey as the Minnie Stevens House and Store. The site file, Mr. Beutell, and *The History of Jackson County* all report that Jackson County residents believe this to be one of the oldest buildings in the county, however this information cannot be confirmed. Mr. Beutell refers to the building as Cowart's Post Office. The survey file contains a site plan that indicated the ruins of a store to the south of the house. Photographs show a front-gable frame building with a Coca-Cola sign above the door that reads Steven's [sic] Store. The site file also indicates that the store was destroyed in 1987.

Interviewed by Margaret Owen in 1978, Mrs. Minnie Stevens reported that her father, Elihu Coward, purchased the house in 1902 when she was eight years old. Elihu Coward

is listed as the first post master after the Rich Mountain Post Office moved to Cowarts in 1889. (Local legend contends that place name is a misspelling of the family name made by an early mapmaker.) Mail delivery discontinued there in 1953 with Mrs. Minnie Stephens listed as the last post mistress.²⁹



Minnie Stephens House photographed in 1978 from HPO file



Minnie Stephens House Today

National Register Criteria Assessment

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Minnie Stephens House is recommended **not eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places. The house lacks integrity of location, materials design, workmanship, feeling, setting, and association.

²⁹ Williams, Max. *The History of Jackson County*. p. 619.

The Minnie Stephens House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*³⁰ The Post Office that operated at the site of the Minnie Stephens House and Store from 1889 to 1953 illustrates an important contribution to the development of Caney Fork community. However, it seems most likely that the post office was operated out of the Steven's Store building and not the Minnie Stephens House. The Minnie Stephens House is not associated with any event or pattern of history that would raise the significance to the level necessary to make it eligible for National Register listing and is not recommended eligible under Criterion A.

The Minnie Stephens House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.*³¹ There are no persons associated with the Minnie Stephens House of local, state or national significance. The Minnie Stephens House is not recommended eligible under Criterion B.

The Minnie Stephens House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*³² The building has been moved a distance of five miles over Shelton Mountain eradicating its integrity of association, location, and setting. When relocating the structure, the two-story log core was dismantled and reconstructed on its new site. The only materials remaining from the original structure are the hand-hewn poplar logs and stone from the exterior chimney. The chinking, porch, roof, windows, and doors have all been replaced diminishing the integrity of materials and workmanship.

³⁰ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*. (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), p. 12.

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

³² *Ibid.*, p. 17.

The building bears little resemblance to the Minnie Stephens House that stood on Caney Fork Road for over a century. The Minnie Stephens House was a two-story Greek Revival house with a two-story engaged front-gable porch and one-story frame rear addition. The house rested on a pier foundation and both the main block and the rear addition were clad with weatherboards. The style and materials of the house were consistent with residential construction popular during the 1880s.

Supposing that the porch, the exterior wall materials, and the one-story rear addition were added in the 1880s to an older structure as local legend purports, the reconstruction of the log house degrades from the aspect of design integrity. According to the site survey file the original chimney was a single-shoulder exterior chimney. The reconstructed chimney takes a double-shoulder form. A rear shed addition and changes to the overall design of the house reduce its architectural integrity. Jennifer Cathey, Restoration Specialist for the Western HPO, states that, "the chestnut bark shingles in the gables and the pole posts and railings [of the shed roof porch] are rustic replacements associated with 20th century rustic log buildings, and probably do not relate to the original configuration of the 19th century house."³³ Although this may be one of the few remaining known log houses in Jackson County, the Minnie Stevens House does not retain sufficient integrity to warrant National Register recommendation eligibility under Criterion C.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION B: MOVED PROPERTIES

*A property removed from its original or historically significant location can be eligible if it is significant primarily for architectural value or it is the surviving property most importantly associated with a historic person or event.*³⁴ The Minnie Stephens House does not retain its architectural value, and it is not associated with a historic person or event. The house has lost integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, and location and therefore does not qualify under Criteria Consideration B.

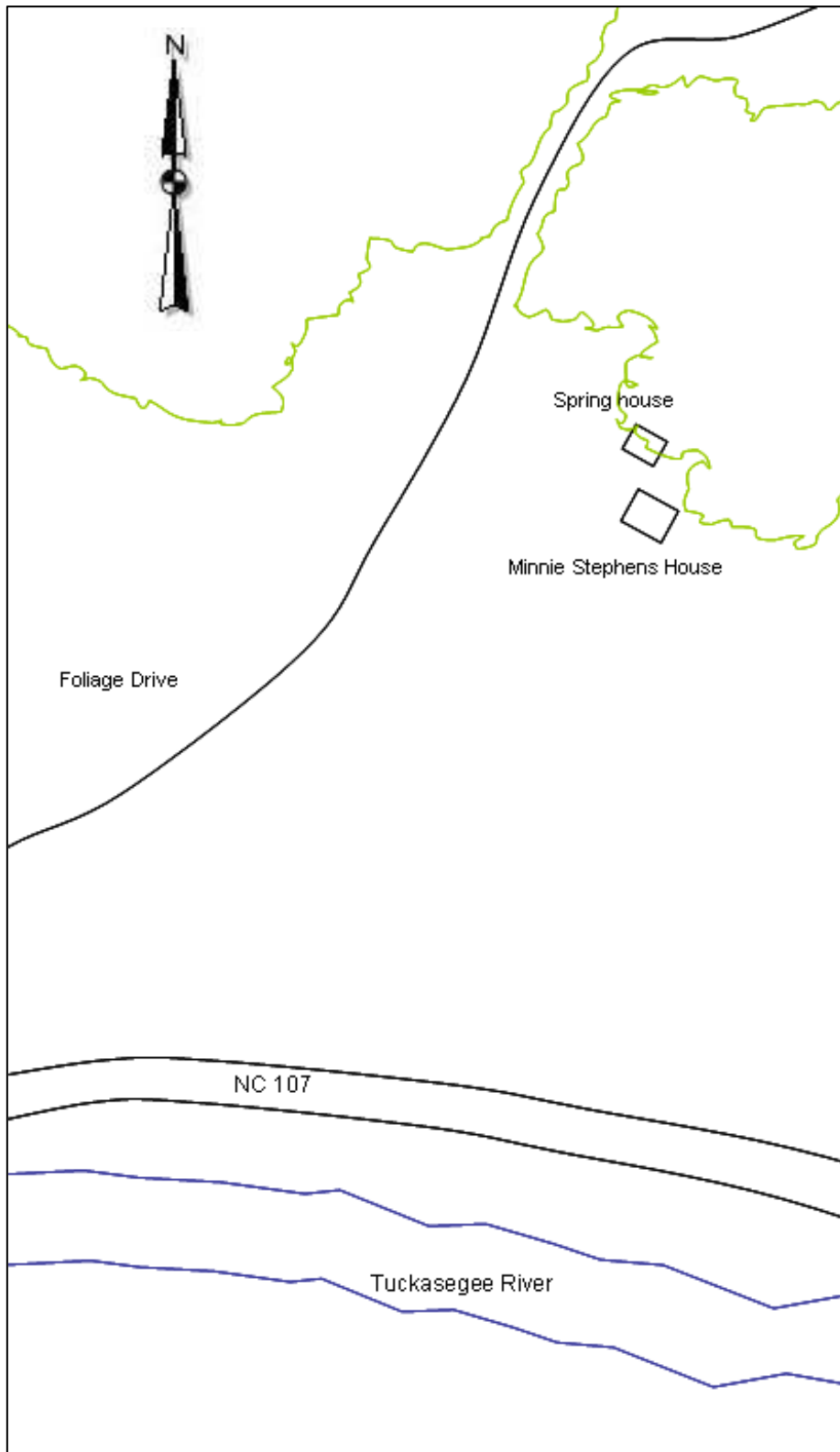
The Minnie Stephens House is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*³⁵ The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. The Minnie Stephens House is not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

³³ Cathey, Jennifer. Email correspondence. 16 April 2009.

³⁴ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin* 15. (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), p. 29.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

Site Plan: Minnie Stephens House





View of Minnie Stephens House looking northeast



View of Minnie Stephens House façade looking north



View of Minnie Stephens House looking northwest



View of Minnie Stephens House looking southeast



View of springhouse and landscaping looking north behind Minnie Stephens House



Detail of Poplar logs of Minnie Stephens House



Detail of front porch of Minnie Stephens House

Identification

Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery
Property No. 18 (JK 45)
PIN 7567-99-1399

Location and Setting

Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery sit on a hill overlooking the Tuckasegee River where NC 107 meets Canada Road (NC 281). The tree line begins on the south side of the driveway that leads to the manse behind the church. The cemetery is carpeted with grass but contains no other landscape features.

Property Description

Built in 1962 of frame construction with brick veneer, the church is a simple vernacular rural church building with a t-plan shape. The front entry features double doors and a gabled portico supported by four Doric columns. The gable and the belfry are clad in vinyl siding. The church is topped by a cooper steeple. The windows in the sanctuary are arched multi-pane swirled translucent glass.

The cemetery flanks the church on both the south and north sides of the building. The burials to the south of the church building are fewer and older than the main burial area to the north. The earliest headstones date from the 1890s. The cemetery is typical of rural mountain cemeteries in that there is little in the way of funerary art, statuary, or other decoration. The headstones in this cemetery vary according to era. Most are made of marble. The earlier stones offer epitaphs and typical Victorian symbols: shaking hands, shells, anchors, and flowers. There is one distinctive art deco marker erected for John and Callie Price (died 1930 and 1933 respectively). However the most interesting of the headstones are the three largest in the cemetery. Boxy and rustic, these markers are made of river rock with a raised bead of mortar forming the joints. In 1934 "the Church erected markers of rustic design to the graves of Rev. M. M. Brown and Rev. L. W. Hooper and wife, who sleep in the Church Cemetery."³⁶ A third headstone of this same type belongs to Earnest L. Hooper, who died in 1934. The most decorative of the three, it features a flower design on the back of the stone and is capped by a triple pointed "crown".

Historical Background

Tuckasegee Baptist Church began meeting under the name Caney Fork Church in 1836

³⁶ Hooper, D. M. The Tuckasegee Baptist Church. April 1936.

near what is now East Laport. Church services were held in several locations until the congregation settled permanently in its current location in 1879. As soon as the congregants settled in their new location they constructed a frame building which also served as a school until the 1920s. By 1955 the congregation had outgrown the church building and began soliciting funds to build a new church on the same location. The new church was dedicated on August 5, 1962. The parsonage was built in 1979.

National Register Criteria Assessment

For purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are recommended **not eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (Event). *To be eligible under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American pre-history or history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or a nation. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*³⁷ The property is not associated with any event or pattern of history that would raise the significance to the level necessary to make it eligible for National Register listing. The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are recommended not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (Person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he/she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.*³⁸ There are no persons associated with the Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery of local, state or national significance. The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are not recommended eligible under Criterion B.

The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (design/construction). *For a property to be eligible under this*

³⁷ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin* 15. (Washington, DC: Dept. of the Interior, 1991), p. 12.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

*critera, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*³⁹ The church does not meet the 50-year rule for National Register eligibility under Criterion C. The cemetery at the Tuckasegee Baptist church does not embody distinctive characteristics that set it apart from other rural mountain cemeteries. Its design, landscaping, funerary art, and grave markers are typical of other cemeteries in the area. The three river rock headstones that stand out among the other stones within the cemetery are not uncommon in this part of Jackson County. Three other cemeteries in the area feature these types of headstones. The river-rock grave markers at the Wesleyan Church Cemetery are particularly distinguished for the markers use of white quartz as a decorative element. Ruth Little commented via email correspondence that "these are nice examples of river-rock monuments; they are common enough in mountain cemeteries in North Carolina." The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are not recommended eligible under Criterion C.

The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (potential to yield information). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*⁴⁰ The property is not likely to yield any new information pertaining to the history of building design or technology. The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are not recommended eligible under Criterion D.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A: RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES

*A religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.*⁴¹ The Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery are not architecturally or artistically distinguished to the degree that they would be raised to the level necessary to make it eligible for National Register listing under Criterion Consideration A.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION D: CEMETERIES

*A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.*⁴² The cemetery at Tuckasegee Baptist Church does not contain the graves of persons of transcendent importance to the history of the

³⁹ Ibid., p. 17.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 21.

⁴¹ Ibid. p. 26

⁴² Ibid. p. 34.

community, state, or nation. The graves are of an average age for this region of Jackson County. The distinctive design features within the cemetery, specifically the river rock monuments, are common in the region and are not distinguished as finer examples of the type found in many local cemeteries. Lastly, there are no known events associated with the cemetery that are significant to local, state, or national history.

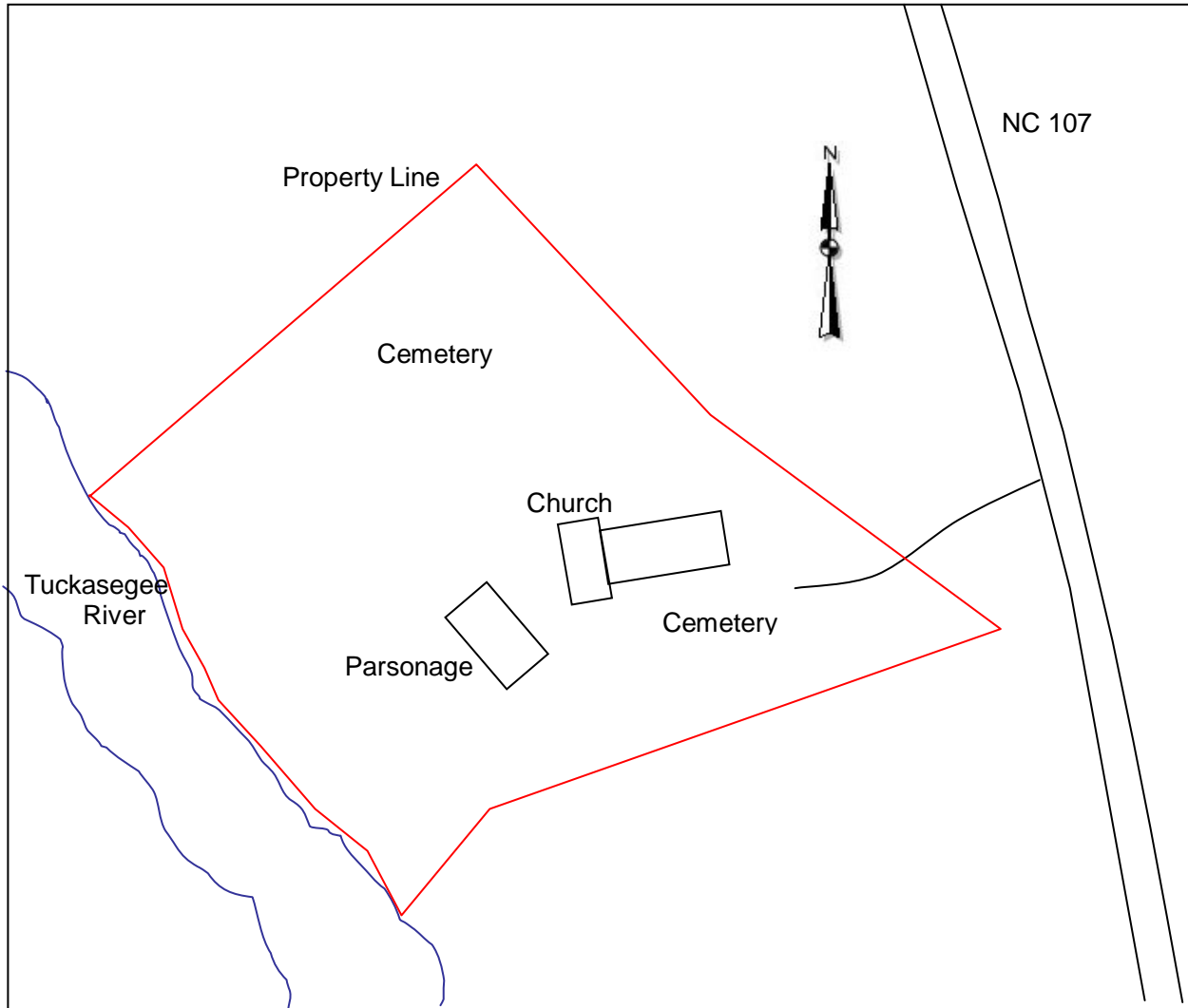
CRITERIA CONSIDERATION G: PROPERTIES THAT HAVE ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE PAST FIFTY YEARS

*A property achieving significance within the past fifty years is eligible if it is of exceptional importance.*⁴³

The Tuckasegee Baptist Church was built in 1962 and has not achieved exceptional significance in that time to be eligible for National Register listing under Criteria Consideration G.

⁴³ Ibid. p. 41.

Site Plan: Tuckasegee Baptist Church and Cemetery





Tuckasegee Baptist Church looking south



Tuckasegee Baptist Church cornerstone



Cemetery on the west side of Tuckasegee Baptist Church



Cemetery on the east side of Tuckasegee Baptist Church



Rustic River Rock grave marker of Rev. L. W. Hooper



Rustic River Rock grave marker of Rev. M. M. Brown



Rustic River Rock grave marker of Earnest L. Hooper



Decorative flower detail on the back of Earnest L. Hooper's grave marker



Art Deco style grave marker of John and Callie Price



Grave Marker of Lula Violet Queen, one of the oldest in the cemetery



Decorative rustic river rock grave markers at Wesleyan Church Cemetery



Decorative rustic river rock grave markers at Wesleyan Church Cemetery



Grave of Leila Agness Hughes (d. 1928) at Wesleyan Church Cemetery



Decorative details on the grave of Leila Agness Hughes



Another example of rustic river rock grave marker at East Laport Cemetery



Decorative detail on the back of Laura and Baxter Hooper grave marker

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Appendix 1: Concurrence

Federal Aid # STP-107(10)

TIP# R-4753

County: Jackson

**CONCURRENCE FORM FOR PROPERTIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Project Description: **Improvements and Upgrades to NC 107 from SR 1002 (Old Cullowhee Rd) to NC 281 In Jackson County**

On **Feb 3, 2009** representatives of the

- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
- Other

Reviewed the subject project at

- Scoping meeting
- Historic architectural resources photograph review session/consultation
- Other

All parties present agreed

- There are no properties over fifty years old within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are no properties less than fifty years old which are considered to meet Criteria Consideration G within the project's area of potential effects.
- There are properties over fifty years old within the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE), but based on the historical information available and the photographs of each property, the properties identified as 1-4 & 17 are considered not eligible for the National Register and no further evaluation of them is necessary.
- There are no National Register-listed or Study Listed properties within the project's area of potential effects.
- All properties greater than 50 years of age located in the APE have been considered at this consultation, and based upon the above concurrence, all compliance for historic architecture with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no historic properties affected by this project. (*Attach any notes or documents as needed*)

Signed:

Shelby Spill
Representative, NCDOT

2/3/09
Date

FHWA, for the Division Administrator, or other Federal Agency

Date

Representative, HPO

Date

Renee Medhill-Early
State Historic Preservation Officer

2.3.09
Date

If a survey report is prepared, a final copy of this form and the attached list will be included.

More info on Prop. 5 & 18.

Appendix 2: Properties Determined Not Eligible for the National Register and Not Worthy of Further Evaluation



PROPERTY 1
PIN 7578-00-5707
9893 HWY 107



PROPERTY 2
PIN 7568-90-5026
9871 HWY 107



PROPERTY 3
PIN 7568-90-4560
9739 HWY 107



PROPERTY 6
PIN 7568-54-9018
8357 HWY 107



PROPERTY 7
PIN 7568-45-4073
8087 HWY 107



PROPERTY 8
PIN 7568-47-5575
HWY 107



PROPERTY 9
PIN 7568-47-5575
HWY 107



PROPERTY 10
PIN 7568-39-1497
47 HELEN ZACHARY RD



PROPERTY 101
PIN 7569-20-4624
48 MAGNETIC HILL



PROPERTY 12
PIN 7569-20-4457
20 MAGNETIC HILL



PROPERTY 13
PIN 7569-20-0667
WYKE TEXACO STATION



PROPERTY 14
PIN 7569-20-0727
54 EAST LAPORT ACRES



PROPERTY 15
PIN 7568-29-7858
6684 HWY 107



PROPERTY 16
PIN 7568-36-3422
HWY 107
DR. JOHN R. BRINKLEY HISTORIC
MARKER
AND AUNT SALLY'S MARKER



PROPERTY 17
PIN 7568-90-0303
LOT 5 OFF HWY 107